90% financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations who provide education, training and rehabilitation facilities to such people.

2. *Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of aid and appliances*

Under the scheme grants are given to voluntary organisation for providing aids and appliances whose value ranges between Rs. 25/- and Rs. 3600/- to disabled persons including children (i) free of cost if their income is less than Rs. 1200 p.m. and (ii) at 50% cost if the income ranges between Rs. 1201/- to Rs. 2500/- per month.

3. *Scholarship for the Disabled Persons*

Government of India provides scholarships to handicapped students, including the blind, for pursuing education from Class IX onwards. Scholarships are also provided for technical and professional training, correspondence courses of study and on-the-job training to the handicapped. Reader's allowance to the blind is also given. The scheme has been transferred to the State Governments from 1-4-1992.

(b) The allocation of funds for these schemes are as follows :

	Allocation in 1992-93 (*Rs. in crores*)
1. Scheme of Assistance to organisations for the Disabled.	5.70
2. Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fittings of aids and appliances.	9.02
3. Scholarships for the Disabled Persons.	5.25

Financial Assistance to SC/ST Entrepreneurs

1979. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any schemes other than those floated to assist the economically weaker sections to provide financial assistance with special concessions to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether any special Institution has been established exclusively for the purpose of providing technological assistance to the up-coming scheduled caste/scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs to promote and run small/medium scale industries, if so, the names thereof; and

(d) the number of scheduled caste entrepreneurs benefited by such financial institutions so far and especially in the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) NSFDC provides different packages of financial assistance exclusively for SCs/STs as explained in the Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir. NSFDC has been providing technical training in collaboration with State SC Development Corporations to the SC/ST upcoming entrepreneurs to promote and run small/medium scale industries.

(d) The number of entrepreneurs/beneficiaries so far covered by NSFDC through financial assistance is 1,21,920 in sectors like agriculture, transport, industry, service, etc. and especially in the years 1990-91 and 1991-92 are 5831 and 114231 respectively.

Statement

SEED CAPITAL

(i) Seed Capital is granted for meeting shortfall in promoter's contribution on need basis. Seed Capital Assistance is provided subject to a maximum limit of 25% of the project cost. However, this will be assessed after deducting the subsidy and seed capital assistance provided by other agencies.

(ii) Seed Capital Assistance is free of interest. However, a service charge of 1% per annum.

(iii) Seed Capital Assistance may be repaid within a period of 5 years including moratorium period, if

any. Thereafter, it will be automatically converted into term loan at the normal rate of interest to be repaid within 10 years from the date of first disbursement of the Seed Capital.

TERM LOAN

(i) Term Loan is given to the extent of 75% of the cost of project for meeting fixed capital expenses like land, building, plant and machinery and other components, if any, which NSFDC thinks fit to finance.

(ii) Interest at the rate of 4.5% p. a. is charged by NSFDC payable quarterly with a rebate of 0.5% for timely repayment of all dues.

(iii) Loan including interest is to be repaid on quarterly basis within a period of maximum 10 years (including moratorium period, if any).

REFINANCE

(i) Refinance is provided upto 75% of the term loan component of the project cost.

(ii) Interest @4.5% p.a. alongwith principal is payable with a rebate of 0.5% p. a. for timely payment of all dues to NSFDC. Interest to be charged from the beneficiary(ies) by the channelising State-level Institutions (SLIs)/Agency(ies) shall not exceed 6% p.a. where also the rebate of 0.5% p.a. would be allowed to the beneficiaries by the SLIs/Agencies implementing the scheme for timely payment of principal and interest thereon.

(iii) Refinance amount is to be repaid within a maximum period of 10 years including moratorium period, if any, the exact number of years depending on the nature of the project and expected generation of surplus from the project.

BRIDGE LOAN

Bridge Loan against subsidy, grants from various institutions can be provided to ensure early implementation of projects subject to assurance by subsidy disbursement agency to repay the loan amount directly to NSFDC/SLI(s). The interest on the same will not be less than what is charged for term loan.

Non-Implementation of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 in Bihar

1980. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state the action Government propose to take to ensure that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 is implemented in letter and spirit by the State of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : A Conference of Chief Ministers of all States and UTs was held on 4-5th October, 1991 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on prevention of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The recommendations of the Conference were forwarded to all States and UTs including Bihar for taking appropriate action to check and deter incidence of atrocities.

A Conference of Ministers in charge of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Welfare in States and UTs including Bihar was held at New Delhi on 21st March, 1992 under the Chairmanship of the Union Welfare Minister which, among things, reviewed the follow-up action on the decision of the Conference of Chief Ministers.

Further, in pursuance of recommendations made in the Conference held at New Delhi on 18-19th September, 1992 under the Chairmanship of Union Welfare Minister, all States and UTs including Bihar were urged upon creating an atmosphere of communal harmony in the villages of the State so that such incidents of atrocities do not occur. It was also emphasised that NGOs can play an important role in lessening tension amongst all sections of people by communicating the message of communal harmony.

Monthly reports on incidents of atrocity on SCs and STs are also called from States and UTs to monitor the implementation of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.